

PERSONAL BACKGROUND Born October 19, 1904 in Naustdal, Sunnfjord, Norway.

PARENTS Lars and Anna Maria. Father, a farmer of mainly cows, some sheep, goats, and horses. Sold dairy products.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS (See family lineage)

PATERNAL GRANDPARENT Risa, typical Norwegian grandmother.

NORWEGIAN SCHOOL DAYS Started age 6, ended age 14. One year later on to high school (Ungdomsskole or Folkehøgskole).

NORDLANDSLAGET Getting money to send students to Norway's high school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL Worked hard, shorter period of time, on to college. Depression came surplus of educators, *etc.* College was in Nordfjord.

DECIDED TO COME TO AMERICA Heard stories, had obligations to meet.

FAMILY'S REACTION TO EMIGRATION Mixed emotions.

INTEREST IN WRITING Started as a hobby. Wrote for local paper. Serious after retirement.

JAKOB SANDE Great inspiration to him.

POETRY Wrote poems, made first page on National newspaper.

FEELINGS ABOUT COMING TO AMERICA Mixed, open options. August 10, 1928 landed in Quebec, Canada (see counter I-290).

BOAT TRIP Passengers from same valley. Went from Bergen to Southampton, England and then to Canada (nine days).

LANDED QUEBEC Able to talk a little French, knew German better (See counter I-249).

BLAINE Immigration station (U.S./Canada border).

JEFFERSON HOTEL (TACOMA) Stayed upon arrival knew person from valley living now in Kent.

LANGAUGE DIFFICULTIES Knew a little English, didn't like it in school, knew Latin better.

IMPRESSIONS OF TACOMA Very nice, good feeling, different from now.

SCANDINAVIAN ORGANIZATIONS Member of Nordlandslaget, Sons of Norway (see counter I-627, II-523, and II-576).

SETTLING IN TACOMA Employed at St. Paul Lumber Mill. Talks of recently published book dealing with mill. Job descriptions at mill.

Kept journal recollections during life.

EMPLOYED PAINTER St. Regis. Fit well into occupation. Howard Johnsen as artist worked there too.

HAWAII Hired as a painter during the war. Largest convalescent hospital.

CITIZENSHIP Right after he got married (1948).

SCANDINAVIAN ORGANIZATIONS TODAY Not real active (see counter I-359, II-523, and II-576). Visits to Norway.

EMIGRATION DIFFICULTIES No real difficulties. Best part getting married. Met wife at a dance. Son attended Pacific Lutheran University.

SCANDINAVIAN TRADITIONS Wife was young when her mother died so she missed out on learning the

traditions.

WESTERN VIKING Employed in the 1930s. Employed also at St. Regis at the same time. History of the Western Viking Andrew Bjerkeseth (?) was the editor. Hans Lavik bought the Western Viking later. It was first located in Tacoma and then in Seattle where it was purchased by Washington Posten, but retained the Western Viking name. Decorah Posten was the largest paper in the U.S. and Norway in 1920. Paper served the Norwegian community. Wrote an editorial against Weyerhaeuser.

POETRY Published in Riksmaal - Bokmaal. Goes into detail regarding the Norwegian languages including Nynorsk.

WESTERN VIKING One of the three Norwegian newspaper today. Most have merged (see counter I-011). Scandinavian papers are The Western Viking of Seattle; Nordisk Tidende of Brooklyn, New York; Vinland of Chicago, and Nyverd which was started by Norman Black in New York.

PURPOSE OF ETHNIC NEWSPAPERS Kept up ethnic culture. Losing cause since people from the 'Old Country' are dying out.

ETHNIC INTEREST Fine, beautiful, always take pride. Language unifies a nation.

PUBLISHED WRITER IN NORWAY Four poetry books, one novel. Receives good reviews.

PHILOSOPHY OF WRITING Aimed at social developments.

RETURN VISITS TO NORWAY Lots of changes. Industrial country (lots of pollution).

KEEPING CORRESPONDENCE At least every Christmas.

RELATIVES VISIT Cousins, not immediate family.

IMPORTANCE OF NORWEGIAN HERITAGE Very important, good influence.

CHURCH LIFE Member of First Presbyterian Church (19 years).

Active in Nordlandslaget, Northlight - unique light of Northern Norway (see counter I-359).

SONS OF NORWAY Not as active today, busy writing (see counter I-359).

WRITING CONTACTS U.S. and Norway. Member of Tacoma Writers Club.

DESCRIBES HIS POETRY BOOKS 1969 - 'Juni-baaten', 1970 - 'Det Storkna Havet', 1973 - 'Praeriekveld', 1975 - 'Dei Kom til Amerika', 1980 - 'Inn I Amerika'.

Recites Norwegian poem from 'Dei Kom til Amerika.' Reads a second poem called 'Bygdefolket.'

TRANSLATES FROM TAPE 65 Whoever was able to cope made it. Dreams in their hearts.

Recites a poem on the social scene regarding smog and pollution.

FAVORITE NORWEGIAN AUTHORS Current and past. Fire and Flame by Kjartan Floegtas who won the Nordic prize in literature. Tarjei Vesaas, Halldis Moren Vesaas.

PUBLISHING HOUSE Third largest in Norway. Had to be persistent. Name is Norge Samlaget.

Norway read his work and that gives him a good feeling. Another successful American-Norwegian author is Ole Roelvagg who wrote 'Giants of the Earth.'

No further trips to Norway, would like to travel in the USA.

CLOSING STATEMENT Immigration - beautiful experience, no regrets. The 'Old Country' is fine too. New country has given him a lot. Many have given some and gotten some.